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**DEFENDANTS TO FACE LIFE IN PRISON FOR
MURDER OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that a jury in Manhattan federal court today returned verdicts requiring a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of release for ALAN QUINONES and DIEGO RODRIGUEZ. On July 27, 2004, the jury returned guilty verdicts against QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ, convicting them of five counts including Racketeering, Conspiracy to Commit Racketeering, Narcotics Conspiracy, and Murder In Connection With A Narcotics Conspiracy. The Murder In Connection With A Narcotics Conspiracy count was based on the defendants' June 1999 murder of a New York City Police Department ("NYPD") confidential informant, and carried a potential sentence of death or life imprisonment without the possibility of release. After 6 days of testimony in the penalty phase, the jury today opted for life sentences for each defendant.

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ participated in a racketeering

enterprise that distributed cocaine in Allentown, Pennsylvania and heroin in the vicinity of 179th Street and Vyse Avenue in the Bronx and Honeywell Avenue and Bronx Park South in the Bronx.

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, QUINONES was arrested by the NYPD on March 26, 1999, after selling heroin to an undercover police officer. QUINONES had been introduced to the undercover officer by Eddie Santiago, an NYPD informant.

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, after being released on bail, QUINONES spent several months hunting down Santiago so that he could kill him in retaliation for Santiago working as an informant, and to prevent Santiago from testifying against QUINONES at trial.

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, on June 27, 1999, through the help of co-conspirators Janet Soto, Hector Vega, and Louis Malave, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ lured Santiago to an apartment located at 926 Bronx Park South. After luring Santiago into the apartment QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ handcuffed and hogtied Santiago and kept him captive in the apartment for hours. According to the trial evidence, while held captive in the apartment, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ taunted and tortured Santiago, by, among other things, spitting on him, putting a cigarette out in his ear, and making sure he knew he was going to die. According to the trial evidence, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ killed Santiago by covering his mouth with duct tape

and strangling him with a cord. According to the trial evidence, after murdering Santiago, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ dumped Santiago's body in a vacant lot, doused it with gasoline, and burned Santiago's body beyond recognition. Santiago was identified through DNA samples obtained from his parents.

DIEGO RODRIGUEZ was arrested on July 27, 2000.

ALAN QUINONES was arrested on November 3, 2000.

United States District Judge JED S. RAKOFF, who presided over the trial, set sentencing for the defendants for September 27, 2004 at 9 a.m. Based on the jury's verdict returned today, QUINONES and RODRIGUEZ will be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of release.

Assistant United States Attorneys DAVID B. ANDERS and DAVID M. RODY are in charge of the prosecution.

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